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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|----------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/608,726 | 06/27/2003 | Tsung-Ein Tsai | ITL.0877US (P15106) | 6928 |
| 21906 | 7590 | 12/14/2005 | EXAMINER | |
| TROP PRUNER & HU, PC | | | WONG, ERIC K | |
| 8554 KATY FREEWAY | | | | |
| SUITE 100 | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| HOUSTON, TX 77024 | | | 2883 | |

DATE MAILED: 12/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/608,726 | TSAI ET AL. | |
| | Examiner Eric Wong | Art Unit 2883 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 September 2005.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.
2. Applicant's arguments, filed in the pre-appeal conference, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of United States Patent Number 6,788,395 to Baney et al.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-2, 7-8, 10-11, and 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baney et al.

Baney et al. discloses a testing system for a multi-port device that couples a light source (21) to a device (20) through a 1x2 switch which has at least one input and at least two outputs (14 or 15), the at least two inputs of said switch being coupled to the two inputs of said device; and coupling the outputs to a detector. It is noted that Baney et al. does not limit the number of detectors that can be used.

However, Baney et al. fails to disclose two different detectors coupled to the device under test.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add another detector to the device of Baney et al. in order to increase the number of tests that could be conducted and increasing efficiency.

As to claims 2, 8, and 14, a polarization controller (synthesizer 59) is disclosed. Said controller provides outputs of different polarization states (column 3, line 54-column 4, line 5)

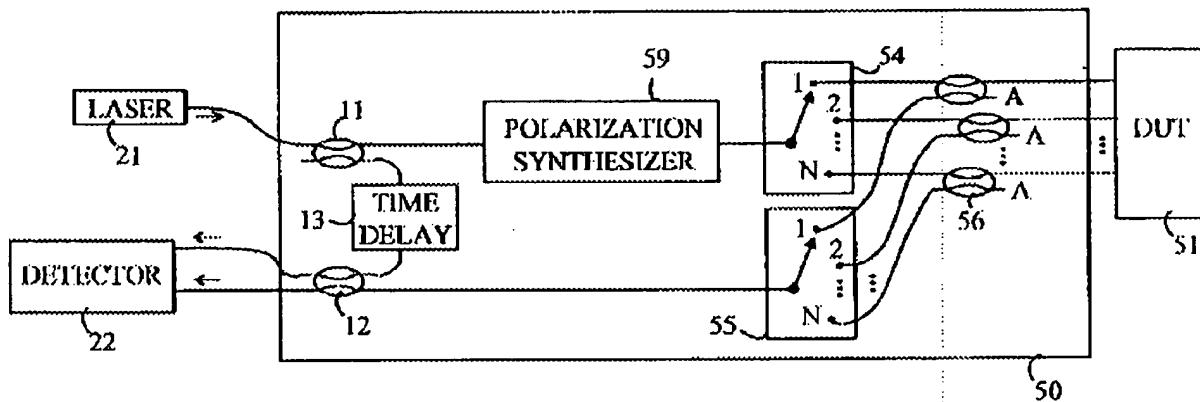


FIGURE 2

5. Claims 3-5, 15-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baney et al. as applied to claims above, and further in view of United States Patent Number 6,485,703 to Cote et al.

Baney et al. discloses the device as claimed, however, fails to explicitly disclose detection of four Mueller polarization states. Baney et al. discloses that many different parameters may be tested using the device (column 1, lines 14-24).

Cote et al. discloses a method of using a 16x16 Mueller matrix to measure changes in birefringence.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the Mueller matrix to measure four or more Mueller

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polarization states in the device of Baney et al. in order to measure birefringence characteristics to reduce transmission errors.

Conclusion

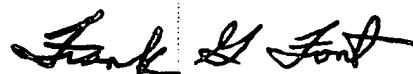
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Wong whose telephone number is 571-272-2363. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 830AM - 430PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Frank Font can be reached on 571-272-2415. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



EW



Frank G. Font
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800